

The father has to pay wages to his sons.
or those that assist on the farm, of course
if the parent was only a labouring man
well then the boys went out & got positions
or took, to any kind of calling that might
bring them in something, or learned a trade or
profession. So my mind reverts again to all
the young folks like my self, but at that time
many, many have passed on. "There are ^{now} some
few remaining who remind us of the past," & altho
scattered far apart, yet there is something within
us that is binding to our early experiences.
My thoughts go back to Brookside. When
there, as a boy, I did not seem to think
that there was any great beauty about the
place. And yet as I see it now there was
a beauty, and once I had an experience
which showed me ^{it clearly} the beauty. It was in
1889 that I took a trip over to ~~Melbo~~
Melbourne, to the Exhibition that was being
held there & also for other private reasons. Well
I travelled a few hundred miles into the
country, Victoria. It was in the month of November
as the train carried me further away from the
city, there was scarcely a vestige of any thing
green to be seen with the exception of the trees
and vineyards. The grass that there was, was

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dry as tinder, every thing - to my view was scorched
and dry, this would apply also (as later experience
showed me) for hundreds of miles. When I came
home again in the following January, I thought
that I had never seen any thing so pretty. The
grass was lovely & green, the hay crops waving also
The wheat & oat crops ^{almost} as high as the fences
almost & harvest just about to commence. All
this in contrast with what I had just previously
seen, well it was "good for sore eyes".
But also the general surroundings of the place no
doubt at the earliest stage of settlement it must
have been very bleak and open, but there was
the distant scene. To the west across the plains
there was ^{was} the foot hills which showed the natural
colour of vegetation but further back, the high
mountain range ^{the Southern Alps} covered with perpetual snow.
and in winter right down well to the lower
slopes. Here & there were the Gorges, right into
the mountain range through which flowed the
Rakauri & Wairarapa, & in the early spring
& later, when the S.W. winds blew there was a wild
appearance. On the ~~North~~ Eastern side in the distance
was what we called the Port Hills, gradually tapering
to the east ^{north and south} & west, & occasionally showing dis-
tinctly, fold on fold of hills showing one behind
the other. About the centre of the range was the